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25. The backpack as recited in claim 24, wherein said right and left auxiliary straps have lengthwise adjusting means.

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REMARKS

With regard to the objection to the drawings, at such time as allowable subject matter is indicated, or at the time the formal drawings are submitted, the appropriate corrections to the drawings will be made.

It is believed that the newly submitted claims properly distinguish over the prior art, and also remedy the objections made in the last Office Action.

With regard to the various patents cited in the last Office Action and used to reject the claims, it is believed that none of these discloses the combination shown in Figure 1.

The Williams patent appears to show only a pair of shoulder straps attached to a golf bag. The disposition of the shoulder straps and the waist band is not disclosed.

With regard to the Manzer patent, this was cited to show the use of closed cell foam, coated nylon and adjustable buckles. These admittedly are not new in themselves, but the claim combination is not shown.

The patent to Richards discloses a loud speaker mounted to the person's back. The front straps which go over the shoulder attach to the waist belt at the front. The weight of the loud speaker simply tends to pull the waist strap up, and the sole vertical support for the loud speaker is at a middle forward location (see Figure 7).

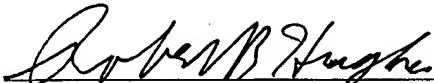
The Baum patent simply shows a shoulder strap which can be used in one carrying mode, and also a waist strap. The patent to Smith discloses only a waist strap and does not disclose the shoulder straps for vertical support. The British patent to Myatt discloses a backpack where there are a pair of shoulder straps that carry the containing portion at an upper portion of a person's back, and no attempt is made to use a waist strap. The British patent to Droeger shows essentially the same type of backpack as shown in Myatt.

The arrangement as recited in claim 1 recites a combination of straps which perform in general two major

functions. First, the vertical back straps in combination with the front straps (both of these attaching to the shoulder straps) provide vertical force components which extend through a central portion of the pouch, thus providing proper vertical support. Also, both the back strap and the front straps exert forward horizontal force components which keep the side portions of the backpack snug against the person's lower back portion. Further, the waist strap also provides the horizontal force component to pull the sides of the pouch forwardly. Further, there is no tendency for the vertically oriented straps to exert a vertical force on the waist strap that extends around the person's waist.

If there is any matter which could be expedited by consultation with the Applicant's attorney, such consultation would be welcome. The Applicant's attorney can normally be reached at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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